



General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General

24 July 2008

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 48th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 4 June 2008, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African
Republic and Chad

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

08-36477 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (A/62/781/Add.15 and A/62/804)

1. **Mr. Brunel** (France) expressed grave concern that the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had not been translated into French, despite the statements by the representative of the European Union at the Committee's forty-fourth and forty-fifth meetings, regarding the non-availability of documents in all official languages. The regulations and provisions governing multilingualism in the Organization must be respected. The current situation was simply unacceptable.
2. His delegation noted the Secretariat's explanation as to why the reports of ACABQ on two additional agenda items were not available in all languages but wished to know who had decided, and based on what criteria, to give precedence to the reports on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and on contingent-owned equipment, rather than to those on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). It also requested an explanation as to why the report of the Secretary-General on contingent-owned equipment had not been translated earlier, given that it had been available since early March. Immediate explanations were also required for the Secretariat's failure to take action, despite repeated instances of the non-availability of documents in all six official languages. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to submit a note at the beginning of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, and in any case prior to the adoption of the Committee's programme of work, on the specific organizational measures he proposed to take to remedy the situation. The matter should also be referred without delay to the new Coordinator for Multilingualism.
3. **Mr. Saizonou** (Benin), supported by the representatives of Gabon, Haiti, Djibouti, Senegal, the Congo, Chad and Morocco, said that he fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of France.
4. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan) echoed the concerns of the French delegation. It would be difficult for the Committee to discuss the current report if it were available only in English.
5. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba), supported by the representatives of the Sudan, Egypt, Venezuela and South Africa, said that he shared the concerns expressed by the representative of France, but, given the time constraints, the Committee should take a practical approach so that the budgets for peacekeeping operations could be approved expeditiously.
6. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) said that, while his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of France, given the work still before the Committee, there was need for flexibility so that reports could be considered in the language in which they had been submitted.
7. Speaking as Vice-Chairman, he urged the Committee to consider the implications of its decision for similar situations in the future. A decision not to consider reports that were not available in all six official languages would have far-reaching implications for all concerned.
8. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that he was not in a position to provide an immediate response to the questions put by the representative of France. However, he would be sure to transmit the Committee's concerns to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management following the adjournment of the meeting.
9. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/804), said that the proposed budget of \$307,835,700 represented an increase of \$125,391,700 or 68.7 per cent compared to the resources approved for 2007/2008. Because the Mission had been established by the Security Council on 25 September 2007, the 2007/2008 budget reflected the phased deployment of military liaison officers, United Nations police and civilian staff over a nine-month period. The 2008/2009 budget proposals represented the full 12-month requirements.
10. The main factors contributing to variances were the increased requirements attributable to the projected full deployment of military liaison officers, United Nations police and civilian staff by the end of June 2009, with the application of delayed deployment and

recruitment factors, and higher requirements for the construction of seven camps, six police stations and 12 police posts in eastern Chad, the acquisition of additional prefabricated facilities for the camps and the projected full deployment of the Mission's fleet of aircraft.

11. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of \$307,835,700 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and to assess the amounts of \$72,531,151 at a monthly rate of \$25,652,975 for the period from 1 July to 24 September 2008 and \$235,304,549 at the monthly rate of \$25,652,975 for the period from 25 September 2008 to 30 June 2009, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

12. **The Chairman** said that the related report of the Advisory Committee was available on an exceptional basis in an advance unedited version in English and would be issued shortly in all official languages as A/62/781/Add.15.

13. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed budget of MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$6,711,500 in the proposed budget.

14. The Mission faced many challenges, including poor physical infrastructure, difficult supply routes and long lead times for the procurement of goods and services. The conditions of insecurity in eastern Chad did not permit MINURCAT to deploy civilian personnel without protection. In order to meet those challenges, MINURCAT relied on the European Union-led peacekeeping force (EUFOR), which provided support to MINURCAT on a reimbursable basis. A joint European Union/United Nations needs assessment regarding arrangements for follow-up to EUFOR, including a possible United Nations operation, would be undertaken in September 2008 and the outcome would be considered in determining whether any adjustments to the mandate of MINURCAT were needed.

15. MINURCAT had indicated that it would examine the viability of cross-border resupply arrangements with UNAMID and, as deployment of the two missions continued and as staff became more familiar with the

border area, such cross-border arrangements might become possible. Considerable cost savings could be achieved through economies of scale by using the same logistical assets to support facilities on each side of the border. The Advisory Committee therefore encouraged the missions concerned to avail themselves, security permitting, of cross-border arrangements and to report thereon in the next budget submission.

16. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed staffing proposals for MINURCAT. In addition, it had been informed that, based on a revised needs assessment for one fixed-wing aircraft (L-100) and on the currently anticipated deployment of three helicopters (MI-8) in September 2008, the proposed budget estimates could be reduced by \$6,711,500. Accordingly, the Committee recommended approval of the reduction.

The meeting rose at 3 55 p.m.